

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Remarks

Amendment to the claims

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 10-12, 14, 18, 23 and 24 are amended in response to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Support for amendment to the claims is at least found in claims as originally filed and at p. 9, lines 12-14 (grafted via covalent bonding); p. 6, lines 3-5 and p. 11, lines 7-9 (modified spermine); p. 11, lines 5-6 (cholesterols); and p. 10, bottom to p. 11, top (a scaffold for cell growth and coating in printing and electronic industry).

Rejections under 35 USC § 112

Claims 1-24 were rejected as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The applicant respectfully traverses the rejections if it they are applied to the claims as amended.

The Examiner alleged that the recitation of the term “range from 2 to 2000” renders the claims indefinite. Claims 1 and 2 are amended to clarify that the range 2 to 2000 recited therein refers to the saccharide units.

The Examiner further alleged that the recitation of the term “directly grafted” renders the claims indefinite. Claims 1 and 2 are amended to specify that the oligoamine recited therein is grafted covalently to the polysaccharide recited in the claims.

The Examiner further objected to the Markush group language in claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 11, 14 and 20. The applicant has amended the Markush group language in claims 1, 2, 11, and 14. The applicant submits that the Markush group language recited in claims 4, 5, 7, and 20 is proper (see, MPEP § 2173.05(h)).

U.S.S.N. 10/044,538

Filed: January 10, 2002

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The Examiner further alleged that the recitation of hydrophobic and amphiphilic groups in claims 1 and 2 in general renders the claims indefinite. The applicant respectfully disagrees. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that the term “hydrophobic group” refers to any group that has a relatively low affinity to an aqueous medium and the term “amphiphilic group” refers to any group that has a relatively high affinity to both aqueous and lipo media (see, for example, Gerhard Hummer, et al., “An information theory model of hydrophobic interactions” in Biophysics 93 (17):8951-8955 (1996)).

Claim 2 is amended to provide that the hydrophobic group defined in 2(c) is complexed with the anionic macromolecule defined in 2(d) as the Examiner suggested.

Claim 8 is amended to delete the term “side” from the term “side groups”.

Claim 10 is amended to delete the term “spermine and derivatives”. Claim 8 now recites “spermine and modified spermines” instead.

Claim 12 is amended to delete the term “cholesterol derivatives”. Claim 12 now recites “cholesterols”.

Claim 18 is amended to delete the term “predetermined type of” from the term “predetermined type of cell or tissue”. Claim 18 now specifies that the ligand is provided for facilitating the binding of the composition defined therein to a cell or tissue.

Claims 23 and 24 are amended to be drawn to a scaffold and a coating for printing or for use in electronic industry, respectively, comprising a composition defined therein.

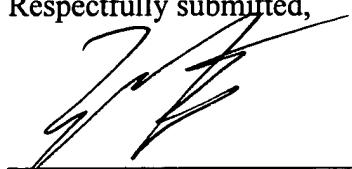
Claims 1-24 are now clear and definite.

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Allowance of 1-24, as amended, is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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